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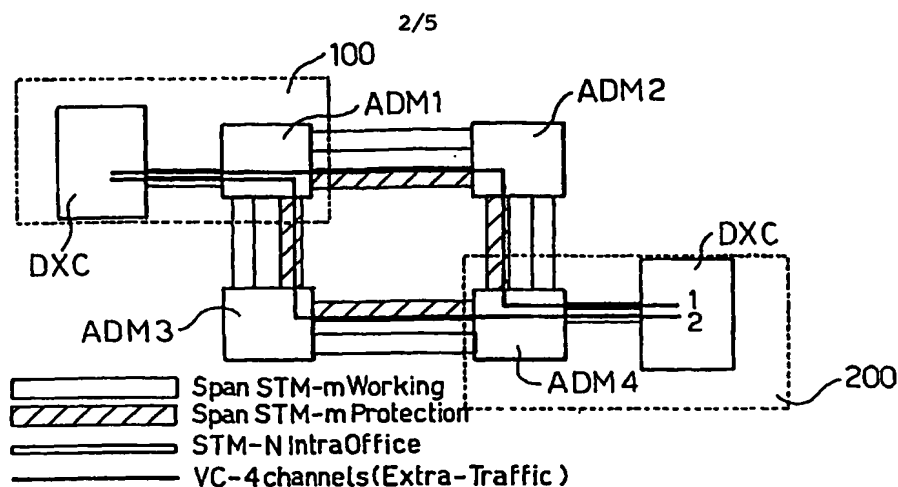
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**Declarations under Rule 4.17:**

- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations **AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES,**

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(54) Title: **METHOD FOR PROVIDING EXTRA-TRAFFIC PATHS WITH CONNECTION PROTECTION IN A COMMUNICATION NETWORK, RELATED NETWORK AND COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCT THEREFOR**



(57) Abstract: Extra traffic (ET) paths are provided in a communication network including at least two protection channels associated to respective transmission channels. Each protection channel admits: - an active state for carrying, in the presence of a failure in said associated transmission channel, traffic to be carried by the associated transmission channel, and - a stand-by state, wherein the protection channel is adapted to carry extra traffic. The protection channels are run in a sub-network connection protection scheme, whereby one of the protection channels in its stand-by state is adapted to ensure recovery of extra traffic carried by the other protection channel while the other protection channel is switched to its active state or is subject to failure.

- *of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only*

— with international search report

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